

MAYOR SHARPE JAMES

COMMENTS ON AUTO THEFT

AUGUST 28, 1992

1. While the City will continue to enhance and expand our recreational and cultural offerings, under no circumstances will the City of Newark tolerate the disrespectful, irresponsible, lawlessness and endangering of lives from auto theft criminals.
2. We will not accept the falsehood of poverty and "nothing to do" as an excuse for a lifestyle of crime, drugs and auto theft. Juvenile offenders and parents must be held accountable for their actions.
3. We must end a dangerous, permissive and self-destructive belief by some that it's all right for our kids to steal cars and risk lives in the disguise of recreation or as a new sport.
4. Moreover, the press should stop glorifying the perpetrators of crime and start focusing on the cost to society in terms of lives lost, injuries, property damage and fiscal hardships for the victims. Or, how about writing about the urban achievers (see the Yasin single parent family results in a drug infested neighborhood).

5. The City using its controlled pursuit policies continues to make a significant number of arrests only to see a permissive judicial system downgrade auto theft to a misdemeanor with no house arrest or prison term.
6. Auto theft offenders should be viewed as a person being in possession of a dangerous weapon and treated as a felon.
7. I call upon the entire community to serve as a positive role model in calling for more parental guidance, the teaching of morality in our schools and becoming volunteers in creating more wholesome activities for the young and old.....a part of the solution and not the problem.